

SPEAR NEWS

FALL 2023 Edition

A whole lot has occurred within the Spear Golf Club since our last newsletter. The Pacific Grove, Chardonnay GC and Rancho Solano Tournaments have taken place. We traveled and experienced a wonderful day of golf at the Winchester Country Club Golf Course. Enjoyed a social gathering and wine tasting at the Vino Godfather Winery, while being entertained with music performed by the bay area musical group, Top Shelf. Participated in a golf getaway hosted by the Cosmo Golf Club in Los Cabos, Mexico. Those who participated in the golf getaway also got to directly experienced the effects of Norma, a Cat. 1 Hurricane. We had members from our club compete in the WSGA North/South Shootout. The North won the shootout. With all of that, we still have one remaining tournament to play on our schedule this year at the Lake Chabot Golf Course in Oakland.

So, you may be wondering to yourself, if the Spear GC was able to accomplish all of this during 2023, what does Spear have instore for us in 2024.

Well. let us begin with our 2024 Tournament Schedule. We start in February with Coyote Creek GC in Morgan Hill, follow in March with Tracy Country Club in Tracy, in April our Spear 47th Annual to be held at he Wente Vineyards GC, followed in May will be the Baylands GC in Palo Alto, in July will be Half Moon Bay GC in Half Moon Bay, in August is DeLaveaga GC in Santa Cruz, September we have Callippe Preserve in Pleasanton, October at the Bartley Cavanaugh in Sacramento, closing in November with Eagle Ridge GC in Gilroy.

The 70th WSGA Annual Tournament will be held June 20 – 23, 2024. at 3 of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Alabama. This represents a historic milestone for WSGA. 2024 is WSGA platinum year. WSGA have been in existence since 1954 (the year I was born). 70 grand years!!!

WSGA tournament will be played on the Judge, Senator, and Legislator courses. The host hotel will be the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel which also provides tennis courts, a pool, full fitness center and activities for kids. If you do not golf, the area also provides canoeing, hiking, fishing, and a rich history in the Civil Rights movement.

We are going to establish a few non-golf Socials at various locations throughout Northern California. We will get back to you on when and where.

We are also in the early stages of considering a 2024 golf getaway. Thinking about the following locations: Los Cabos- Mexico, Cancun-Mexico, Dominican Republic, or Bermuda. If you have suggestive locations, please share with your Spear CG leadership.

We are going to participate in NCGA 2024 sponsor tournaments. Greg Bennett has agreed to serve as our NCGA Tournament Director. He will identify selective tournaments and solicit Spear members who established their NCGA membership through the Spear GC to represent the Spear GC during NCGA tournaments.

Administrative Matters:

It has been 15 years, or more, since we last increased our membership fees. We have only 4 members maintaining our 65 active members. Our membership increased by 40% in 2023 over 2022. The productivity tools we currently rely on aren't as time saving as we hoped. Annual tournament deposits have increased to more than \$3000 a year. Due to inflation, everything costs more now. Therefore, your officers agreed to increase the membership from \$36 to \$50 per year.

NCGA has increased their cost to an annual cost of \$46, and we expect WSGA to restore their rate back to \$45 per individual membership.

2024 Membership Cost

Spear Membership only: \$50,

Spear Membership and NCGA: $\$50 + \$46 = \$96$

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Please renewal your membership before 12-31-2023. The sooner, the better, both WSGA and NCGA are due by January 1, 2024.

The Spear GC is a 501(c)(7) organization. This formally exempts our club from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code. It also allowed us

to establish a checking and savings account under the business name of "Spear Golf Club." Therefore, when you are not able to Zelle payments to Spear GC through "Zelle," you can now write checks out to the "Spear Golf Club." Please do not write anymore checks made out to Lewis Braxton.

We still think we can look at getting club golf hats in January. Please let either Darren, Byron, or I if you still support this effort. For those of you who have already shared their thoughts, the hat color being considered is either white or tan. Some of you said it should be white, since it matches any outfit.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, a fabulous Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!!!!

Otherwise, Remember:

We come together to play,
We come together for fun, and
We stay together for friendship,

Lewis S. G. Braxton III
Spear Golf Club President